

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Anastasia Burton  
(406) 444-5357

**Environmental Public Health Tracking Program Topic of March NRIS Seminar**

(HELENA)--- Marjean Heisler Magraw and Christine Korhonen with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services are scheduled as guest speakers at the next NRIS Seminar. Their presentation, "*GIS and the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program*" is set for Friday, March 19 from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm in the conference room of the Montana State Library.

Montana was awarded funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last year to begin development on a national network linking public health data with information on environmental hazards. The vision of this project is to "better protect communities from adverse health effects through the integration of public health and environmental information systems." Montana is one of 17 initial demonstration sites across the U.S.

The use of GIS mapping will be an important component in the dissemination of information for a national tracking network. GIS mapping examples, as well as an overview of the project, will be given.

Natural resource professionals, health professionals, and the public are invited to attend. This seminar is free; no registration is necessary. For more information, call (406) 444-5357. Interested individuals are also encouraged to visit [www.dphhs.state.mt.us/epht](http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/epht) or [nr.is.state.mt.us](http://nr.is.state.mt.us).

The Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) was established in 1985 by the Legislature. NRIS, a division of the State Library, acts as a clearinghouse for natural resource information.

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